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Letter dated 8 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the following texts to be published as a document of the Security Council:

(a) Press statement;

(b) Reiterated appeal by President Kagame for international action on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The two texts will be useful for all those who are working on the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement and we would appreciate if they were circulated to relevant Member States.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-53067 (E) 230802

Annex I to the letter dated 8 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council*

[Original: English and French]

Press statement

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has followed with particular attention the recent tour of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Louis Michel.

Following the discussions in a meeting with the President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame, held on Sunday, 3 February 2002 and taking into account information from meetings Mr. Louis Michel held with Congolese authorities and the civil society in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

1. It is clear that initiatives, such as his, and similar parallel actions undertaken have started to cause confusion in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, the only appropriate framework for the resolution of the crisis in the Congo.

2. Rwanda supports the idea of urgently calling a meeting of all signatories to the Lusaka Agreement for a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to return the process to the right path, in particular the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration and the inter-Congolese dialogue.

3. In this regard, Rwanda calls on the United Nations to assume its responsibilities and play a major role in facilitating the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, and to take appropriate measures against the perpetrators of genocide, the Interahamwe and ex-FAR, and against all who arm and support them.

Done at Kigali, 3 February 2002

* Annex I is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

Annex II to the letter dated 8 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

President Kagame reiterates appeal for international action on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame, has reiterated an appeal for the international community to act decisively to resolve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo within the framework of the Lusaka Agreement.

Speaking to the press following a meeting with the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Louis Michel, on Sunday evening, President Kagame said, "The international community should guarantee security for all those who need it, particularly Rwanda. They should be taking up this responsibility. In the first place, why did the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo reach a point where Rwanda had to intervene for its own security? This is an issue that should have been handled by the international community, including Belgium."

President Kagame also urged the international community to focus on the root cause of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and not to be diverted by secondary issues. "The international community should not shy away from its responsibilities. They should stop focusing on new issues, which in my view are secondary to the primary cause of the conflict which is the presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe who are responsible for the deaths of over one million people in Rwanda", President Kagame said.

"We cannot forget that we lost one million of our people at the hands of these genocidaire, based in the Congo, who are known to be supported by the Kinshasa Government", President Kagame added.

Citing the example of the international community's decision to isolate UNITA with the threat of international sanctions on States and organizations that continued dealings with the Angolan rebel group, President Kagame asked why there had been no such international action to isolate the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. "The international community dealt very effectively with UNITA. They put everybody on notice that if countries or companies dealt with UNITA, they would face sanctions. Why haven't they done this in the case of ex-FAR/Interahamwe? Why can't we have specific action in this issue", President Kagame asked.

President Kagame also reiterated the position of the Rwandan Government that the Lusaka Agreement remains the only viable framework for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "There is a framework for realizing peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is the Lusaka Agreement. A number of African countries have come on board. Those countries involved in the conflict are signatories to the Agreement. What the international community, including Belgium, should be doing if they are to provide support, is to try and have this process work. People should not drift from the framework that should deliver peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is the Lusaka Agreement", said President Kagame.

President Kagame called for a summit of all the signatories of the Lusaka Agreement to renew commitment and focus to the peace process.

President Kagame described his talks with Mr. Louis Michel as frank.